

Message Text

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45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

ACDA-19 AID-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /130 W

----- 037679

R 011145Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5609

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

CJCS

UMMRGA/COMUSSAG

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

SECDEF

CONFIDENTIAL PHNOM PENH 4738

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, CB

SUBJECT: STATUS OF THE CONSCRIPTION EFFORT

1. SUMMARY. FANK ACCESSIONS DURING THE PAST WEEK WERE AGAIN DISAPPOINTINGLY LOW WITH THE DAILY NUMBER OF CONSCRIPTS AND VOLUNTEERS IN PHNOM PENH AVERAGING LESS THAN 25PCT OF THE GOAL. A HEALTHY JUMP IN THE NUMBER OF DRAFT NOTICES ISSUED AND INDICATIONS OF NEW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS GIVE SOME HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT THE SECOND PHASE OF THE CONSCRIPTION DRIVE MAY YET GET OFF THE GROUND. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING THE LAST WEEK IN MARCH THE RECEPTION CENTER IN PHNOM PENH REGISTERED A TOTAL OF ONLY 325 RECRUITS AND CONSCRIPTS, A DAILY AVERAGE OF 46 COMPARED TO THE MINIMUM DAILY GOAL OF 186. THE TOTAL FOR MARCH WAS ONLY 1,730 FOR PHNOM PENH AND 1,042 FOR THE PROVINCES COMPARED TO 1,793 AND 1,250 FOR FEBRUARY AND 1,235 AND 4,414 FOR JAUNARY.

3. ONE BRIGHT SPOT IN A GENERALLY DISMAL WEEK WAS THE RISE

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IN THE DAILY NUMBER OF DRAFT CONVOCATIONS ISSUED BY THE CITY'S

SECOND LEVEL DIVISIONS (SANGKATS) FROM BELOW 100 AT THE BEGINNING OF TH WEEK TO OVER 500 AT THE END, SUGGESTING THAT THE SANGKATS ARE AT LAST BEGINNING TO DRAW DOWN ON THE NEW CENSUS LISTS. THEY ARE STILL, HOWEVER, WELL BELOW THEIR DAILY TARGET OF 1,500 DRAFT NOTICES.

4. THE NUMBER OF MEN APPEARING BEFORE DRAFT BOARDS CONTINUES TO BE LESS THAN ONEFOURTH OF THOSE CONVOKED, INDICATING THAT MUCH STRONGER ENFORCEMENTMEASURES ARE REQUIRED. WE HAVE IMPRESSED UPON BOTH CIVIL AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES THE NEED TO INSURE THAT DRAFT BOARDS AND THE SANGKATS BEGIN THIS WEEK TO PROVIDE THE MIXED SECURITY TEAMS WITH FULL LISTS OF

THOSE NOT ANSWERING DRAFT NOTICES NOW THAT 10-DAY GRACE PERIOD FOR NOTICES ISSUED IN SECOND PHASE OF CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN HAS EXPIRED. CITY SECRETARY GENERAL ASSURED US THAT NOT ONLY WOULD SANGKATS BE PRODDED BUT THAT STERN MEASURES WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST LEADERS OF THOSE SANGKAT AND KHANDS WHO FAIL TO PRODUCE REASONABLE NUMBER OF RECRUITS DURING FIRST WEEKS OF APRIL.

5. ALTHOUGH THE MIXED TEAMS CHARGED WITH PICKING UP DESERTERS AND DRAFT DODGERS HAVE NOT YET BEEN PROVIDED WITH ADEQUATE LISTS, THEY ARE NOW SHOWING A BIT MORE ENERGY AND HAVE EVEN UNCOVERED TWO INCIDENTS OF FRAUD, ONE INVOLVING THE DRAFT BOARD OF THE CITY'S LARGEST KHAND. JOINT CONSCRIPTION STAFF HAS ASSURED US THAT MIXED TEAM WILL BEGIN THOROUGH SWEEPS ONCE LISTS OF EVADERS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED.

6. CONSCRIPTS SENT TO THE RECEPTION CENTER ARE RUNNING LESS THAN 50PCT OF MEN APPEARING BEFORE DRAFT BOARDS, SUGGESTING THAT DEFERRMENT POLICY REMAINS OVERLY LIBERAL. MIXED CONSCRIPTION STAFF INFORMS US THAT ITS REPRESENTATIVES ON DRAFT BOARDS WILL BE A KED TO MONITOR AND REPORT ON DEFERRMENTS PRACTICES, AND DEFENSE MINISTER THAPPANA NGINN HAS ORDERED ATL DRANT BOARDS TO RETAIN COMPLETE FILES ON DFERRMENTS FOR EXAMINATION.

7. IF ACCESSION RATE DOES NOT SHOW MARKED IMPROVEMENT DURING
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FIRST WEEK OF APRIL, WE WILL REQUEST PRIME MINISTER TO CALL EMERGENCY MEETING OF MINISTERS AND OFFICERS CONCERNED TO CONSIDER FURTHER REMEDIAL MEASURES.

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